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the X-MEN

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12 JULY

THE ORIGIN OF PROFESSOR X!

FEATURING: THE ALMOST INDESCRIBABLE MENACE OF "THE JUGGERNAUT!"

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X-MEN

THE MOST UNUSUAL TEEN-AGERS OF ALL TIME!

"THE ORIGIN OF PROFESSOR X!"

PROFESSOR! WE HEARD THAT BLOOD-CURDLING NOISE! WHAT'S WRONG? ARE... ARE YOU IN DANGER??

THE SOUND IS EMANATING FROM HIS DESK! THERE'S SOME SORT OF ELECTRONIC APPARATUS SECRETED WITHIN!

MY EARS! THE SCREETCH IS DEAFENING! WHAT IS IT?

I'VE NEVER SEEN PROFESSOR X LOOK SO DESPERATELY FEARFUL BEFORE!

REEEE

STAY OUT, ALL OF YOU! NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROFESSOR'S CEREBRO MACHINE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, CYCLOPS! LET THEM ENTER! WE'RE ABOUT TO FACE OUR MOST DEADLY THREAT! WE CAN HAVE NO SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER NOW!

WE'VE GOT A STARTLING, SIZZLING TALE TO TELL YOU, AND NO TIME TO WASTE WITH A LONG INTRODUCTION! SO, LET'S GO! WE'LL BRIEF YOU ALONG THE WAY...!

STUPIFYING STORY BY: STAN LEE
SPECTACULAR LAYOUTS BY: JACK KIRBY
SLAM-BANG PENCILLING BY: ALEX TOTH
SENSATIONAL INKING BY: VINCE COLLETTA
THE USUAL LETTERING BY: SAM ROSEN
KIBITZING BY: THE WHOLE BLAMED BULLPEN!

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WHAT *IS* IT, PROFESSOR? WHAT DANGER DO WE FACE? AND WHAT DOES *CEREBRO* MEAN?

IT'S THE ONLY MACHINE OF ITS KIND IN EXISTENCE! IT GIVES WARNING OF ANY MUTANT MENACE WHICH MAY BE NEAR!

EEEEE

BUT, IT HAS NEVER REACTED LIKE *THIS* BEFORE! THE MENACE WE FACE MUST BE *IN-DESCRIBABLY POWERFUL!*

THERE IS ONLY *ONE* WHO COULD CAUSE SUCH A REACTION! QUICKLY! YOU MUST DO AS I SAY...!

EEEEEE

A MOMENT LATER, HAVING RECEIVED THEIR ORDERS, THE MARVELOUS MUTANTS RACE INTO ACTION...

JUDGING BY THE PROFESSOR'S *AGITATION*, OUR VERY EXISTENCE IS AT STAKE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT HE FEARS, BUT IT MUST BE SOMETHING *TERRIFYING!*

WHATEVER IT IS, *WE* CAN HANDLE IT!

HE NEVER SEEMED THIS WORRIED WHEN WE BATTLED MAGNETO'S *EVIL MUTANTS!*

STOP TALKING! *MOVE!* YOU EACH KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THIS *ICE SHIELD* I'M PUTTING UP AROUND THE SCHOOL OUGHTTA STOP ANYTHING SHORT OF A *SHERMAN TANK!*

WHILE ICEMAN PREPARES A DEFENSE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL WALLS, I'LL BLAST A DEEP TRENCH *INSIDE* THE WALL...

...USING MY POWER BEAM'S HIGHEST INTENSITY!!

SLOW DOWN, HANK! I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU!!

YOU'RE DOING JUST *FINE*, JEAN! KEEP TELE-PORTING THOSE LEAVES AND TWIGS OVER THIS CABLE SO THAT OUR UN-KNOWN ATTACKER WON'T SUSPECT THE BOOBY TRAP WE'RE LAYING!

ANGEL! COME HERE! I *NEED* YOU!

ZAP!

THAT'S *IT*, WARREN! HOLD THOSE LOGS WHILE I HOLLOW THEM OUT WITH POWER BLASTS!

THIS IS THE *LAST* OF 'EM, CYKE! NOW I'LL GET THE *GRENADES!*

THE PROF DIDN'T SAY WHAT KIND OF GRENADES THESE ARE! DO YOU THINK...?

NO TIME FOR GUESSING! WE'RE ALMOST DONE NOW!

EXACTLY FIVE MINUTES LATER, THE X-MEN RETURN, HAVING COMPLETELY FORTIFIED AND BOOBY-TRAPPED THE MYSTERIOUS BUILDING...

THE SCREECHING SOUND HAS STOPPED! DOES THAT MEAN THE DANGER'S PAST?

NO! THE PROFESSOR'S MERELY TURNED OFF THE CEREBRO MACHINE!

WELL DONE, MY X-MEN! COME IN...!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN MORE OF THE DANGER THAT THREATENS US!

IS IT ONE OF THE EVIL MUTANTS WE FOUGHT IN THE PAST, SIR?

NO! I ONLY WISH IT *WERE!*

I HOPED YOU'D *NEVER* HAVE TO LEARN OF *THIS* ENEMY... FOR HIS POWER MAY EXCEED MY *OWN!*

THE ONE WHO IS ABOUT TO ATTACK US IS..MY OWN *BROTHER!!*

YOUR BROTHER?!!

I NEVER MENTIONED HIM BEFORE! PERHAPS I HOPED I WOULD NEVER *HAVE* TO MENTION HIM!

BUT NOW THAT WE ALL SHARE THE SAME MOMENT OF CRISIS...I *OWE* IT TO YOU TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY...TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME, IN YOUR IMAGINATION ...TO THE *BEGINNING*...!

IT STARTED WITH AN *ATOMIC BLAST*, YEARS AGO...AT ALAMAGORDO, NEW MEXICO...

"I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FATEFUL HOLOCAUST ...FOR MY *FATHER* WAS KILLED IN THE BLAST!"

...AND SO WE COMMIT BRIAN XAVIER TO THE EARTH!

IF ONLY *DAD* HAD BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE THE BLAST...THE WAY *DR. MARKO* DID!

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL, SHARON... AND I *SHARE* YOUR GRIEF! BUT, AS HIS FRIEND, I SHALL LOOK AFTER YOU... AND AFTER THE BOY, TOO!

THANK YOU, KURT! YOU... YOU ARE VERY KIND!

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS DAD'S FELLOW SCIENTIST, I NEVER *TRUSTED* DR. MARKO... AND I DON'T TRUST HIM *NOW!*

MY DEAR, DEAR SHARON! I WOULD GLADLY HAVE GIVEN MY OWN LIFE TO SAVE BRIAN'S...IF ONLY IT WERE POSSIBLE!

KURT...YOU'RE SUCH A TOWER OF STRENGTH FOR ME... AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

HE *LIES!* HE *MIGHT* HAVE SAVED DAD...BUT HE SAVED *HIMSELF* INSTEAD!

"BUT MONTHS LATER, MARKO PERSUADED MY GRIEF-STRICKEN MOTHER THAT I NEEDED A FATHER TO TAKE CARE OF ME... AND, ALTHOUGH IT FILLED MY HEART WITH A NAMELESS DREAD, THEY WERE FINALLY *MARRIED!*

YOUR NEW FATHER HAS KINDLY AGREED TO LIVE IN OUR OLD HOME, CHARLES...FOR *YOUR* SAKE!

HE MAY FOOL MOTHER, BUT NOT *ME!* I KNOW *THIS* IS WHAT HE WANTED! MOTHER'S WEALTH, AND POSITION, AND PROPERTY!

"EVEN AS A *BOY*, MY MUTANT BRAIN LET ME SENSE SECRETS WHICH WERE LOCKED IN THE MINDS OF OTHERS...!

AT *LAST!* NOW I HAVE EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!

MONEY! POWER! THAT'S ALL HE REALLY CARES ABOUT!

"AND AS TIME WENT BY..."

I *TOLD* YOU NEVER TO DISTURB ME WHEN I'M AT WORK!

BUT, KURT... I.. I HARDLY EVER *SEE* YOU ANY MORE!

I'VE BEEN A *FOOL!* YOU NEVER REALLY CARED FOR *ME!* YOU JUST WANTED THE POWER OUR WEALTH COULD BRING YOU!

AND WHY *NOT!?* EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, YOUR HUSBAND HAD *EVERYTHING*... FAME, SUCCESS, THE ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD... WHILE *I* WAS A NOBODY! BUT THINGS ARE *DIFFERENT* NOW!

DON'T, KURT... *DON'T!* YOU'RE FRIGHTENING CHARLES!

WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT *HIM?* THE SON OF MY *FORMER* MARRIAGE IS COMING HOME TO-MORROW!

"I FIRST LAID EYES ON MY STEPBROTHER THAT NEXT DAY! HE HAD NO SUPER-POWER THEN... NOTHING BUT AN AURA OF SHEER CRUELTY, AND THINLY DISGUISED *EVIL!*"

SLAM!

TAKE MY BAGS UPSTAIRS! AND DON'T *DROP* 'EM!

YOU MUST BE MY NEW STEPBROTHER! WIPE THAT STUPID LOOK OFF YOUR FACE!

IF YOU'RE WONDERIN' WHAT I'M DOIN' HERE, I JUST GOT *EXPELLED* FROM SCHOOL! I DECIDED THERE WASN'T ANY-THING ELSE THOSE CREEPS COULD TEACH *ME!*

HERE, SQUIRT... LOOK AT MY HAND! I'LL SHOW YA A TRICK!

HAW! THAT'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO STAND AROUND WITH YOUR DUMB-LOOKIN' FACE HANGIN' OUT!

THWAK!

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HE SOUNDS EXTREMELY *UNSAVORY*, SIR! BUT WHAT MAKES HIM DANGEROUS TO US *NOW*?

AFTER ALL, IF HE HAS NO SUPER-POWER...?

HE HAD NONE *THEN*! BUT LATER... *WAIT*! LET ME CHECK *CEREBRO* AGAIN!

HE LOOKS MORE WORRIED THAN EVER!

HE'S EVEN *CLOSER*! THE SOUND IS GETTING *UNENDURABLE*!

HIS POWER MUST BE GREATER THAN IT WAS! GREATER THAN I *FEARED*! CEREBRO IS ALMOST TEARING ITSELF *APART*!

RRRR

WHAT *IS* HIS POWER, PROFESSOR?

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! HE'S REACHED THE *FIRST BARRIER*!

QUICK! TO THE *WINDOW*!

LISTEN! IT'S THE SOUND OF *ICE* BEING SHATTERED! HE'S SMASHING BOBBY'S FROZEN WALL!

BUT I MADE IT AS THICK AS A CONCRETE BUNKER! *NOTHING* COULD SHATTER IT THAT QUICKLY!

GIVE US THE WORD, SIR! WE'LL *ATTACK* HIM!

NO! NOT *YET*! YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT YOU'LL BE *FACING*!

KRAKA

RUMBLE!

LOOK OUT! THE ENTIRE *BUILDING* IS BEGINNING TO *SHAKE*! IT'S *COLLAPSING*!

AND HE'S ONLY USING A *FRACTION* OF HIS TRUE POWER!

BOBBY! *QUICK*! FORM AN *ICE SHIELD* OVER JEAN... *MOVE*, X-MEN!

I HEAR YA TALKIN', CYKE! *WHEW*! JUST MADE IT!!

KLAK!

I DIDN'T *SEE* THAT FALLING CHANDELIER! IF..IF NOT FOR *ICEMAN*--!

WOOM KRAK!

LISTEN! THE REMAINDER OF THE ICE WALL IS BEING TORN APART!!

I SEEM TO SEE A FIGURE OUT THERE! BUT...IT'S SO INDISTINCT...I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT AMONG ALL THE RUBBLE!

HE DID IT! THE ICE WALL IS GONE! HE'S DESTROYED THE FIRST BARRIER!

BARROOOM!

BUT HOW? WHAT POWER DID HE USE?

THE SCHOOL STOPPED SHAKING! WHY? WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?

HE'S JUST TOYING WITH US! HE'S SHOWING HIS CONTEMPT FOR OUR DEFENSES!

SHOULDN'T WE RUSH OUT AND FIGHT HIM NOW... BEFORE HE COMES CLOSER??

NO! THERE'S STILL TIME... TIME FOR ME TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT HOW IT ALL BEGAN!

KRAK! BRRAMM!

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MY HEART-BROKEN MOTHER SHUT HER EYES FOR THE LAST TIME, JOINING HER FIRST HUSBAND--MY FATHER--FOREVER! AND SO, I WAS ALONE... WITH THEM!"

I TOLD YOU NOT TO DISTURB ME WHEN I'M AT WORK!

I'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU GIVE ME THE MONEY I ASKED FOR! YOU CAN AFFORD IT NOW...YOU INHERITED EVERYTHING!

WITH MOTHER GONE, MARKO CONTROLS MY INHERITANCE, TILL I COME OF AGE!

THE ANSWER IS NO, CAIN! IF YOU WANT MONEY, GO OUT AND EARN IT, AS I DID!

I KNOW HOW YOU EARNED IT! IT WAS NO ACCIDENT THAT XAVIER DIED AT ALAMAGORDO..!

YOU DARE ACCUSE ME..?!

DON'T YOU EVER SAY THAT AGAIN!! DO YOU HEAR?? FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, DON'T EVER SAY THAT AGAIN!!

YOU'RE TOO LATE! I HEARD HIM!

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT??? WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO MY FATHER DURING THE ATOM BOMB TEST??

NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL! HE WAS JUST JOKING! HE DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT HE WAS SAYING!

I REALIZED PLENTY! AND NO BRATTY STEP-BROTHER IS GONNA CAUSE ANY TROUBLE NOW!

CAIN! DON'T TOUCH THOSE TEST-TUBES!! THEY'RE UNSTABLE-- EXPLOSIVE!

YOU YOUNG FOOL! IT'S TOO LATE NOW! YOU'VE SPILLED THEM! IF THE DIFFERENT CHEMICALS SHOULD TOUCH EACH OTHER...!

LOOK OUT!

SPLAT!

"BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD COULD BE SAID, THE POTENT FLUIDS DID MAKE CONTACT, AND THAT WAS THE LAST I KNEW," AS A DEAFENING EXPLOSION DESTROYED THE LAB AND ALL ITS CONTENTS...!

"IT WAS THEN THAT MY STEP-FATHER DID THE ONE UNSELFISH DEED OF HIS LIFE! ALTHOUGH FATALLY INJURED HIMSELF, HE MANAGED TO CARRY CAIN AND ME TO SAFETY AS THE LIFE EBBED OUT OF HIM!

"AND THEN, WITH HIS LAST REMAINING BREATH, HE GASPED..."

CHARLES... YOUR FATHER'S DEATH... WAS AN ACCIDENT! BUT... I MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM... IF I TRIED... BUT, I DIDN'T... FORGIVE ME...

BEWARE OF... CAIN! WHEN HE FINDS OUT... ABOUT YOUR POWER...

=UHHHH!=

POWER??

AND THEN...HE DIED! BUT, HIS WORDS PROVED PROPHETIC, FOR...!

PROFESSOR!! LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW! THAT STRANGE, DAZZLING *LIGHT!* WHAT DOES IT *MEAN??*

HE'S REACHED THE *SECOND BARRIER*... AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FORCE FIELD! IT MEANS HE'S FALLEN INTO THE TRENCH THAT CYCLOPS BLASTED INTO THE GROUND OUTSIDE!

BUT THE LIGHT IS GROWING EVEN *MORE* BRILLIANT! THE FORCE FIELD ISN'T *STOPPING* HIM! HE'S... RESISTING IT..TRYING TO *OVERCOME* IT!

I CAN SEE A *FIGURE* OUT THERE!! IT'S STANDING UPRIGHT! IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO BE HURT... OR WEAKENED! AND... IT LOOKS *ENORMOUS!*

KRRRACKLE

HE *ISN'T* HURT, JEAN! IF HE'S LASTED *THIS* LONG, IT MEANS THE CABLE CAN'T *STOP* HIM! HE'S EVERYTHING I *FEARED* HE'D BE... AND *MORE!*

ZZZAPP!

HE SNAPPED THE STEEL CABLE... AS EASILY AS IF IT WERE *PAPER!* BUT, IN SO DOING, HE RELEASED A STILL *GREATER* WAVE OF ENERGY, DESIGNED TO CATCH HIM UNAWARES!

CEREBRO HAS GROWN NO LOUDER! THE SECOND LINE OF ELECTRICAL DEFENSE IS HOLDING... AT LEAST FOR *NOW!*

NOW, ALL WE NEED IS MORE *TIME*... TIME FOR ME TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY..!

REEEE

PROFESSOR! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO GRIM BEFORE! TELL US...DO WE HAVE A CHANCE? CAN HE BE BEATEN??

WAIT TILL I'VE FINISHED MY TALE, HANK...AND THEN YOU CAN FURNISH YOUR OWN ANSWER!

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER MARKO'S DEATH THAT I REALIZED MY BRAIN POSSESED MUTANT POWERS...

...POWERS WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY ALL THE RADIATION MY PARENTS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO AT THE NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER BEFORE I WAS BORN!

"THE ONLY OUTWARD SIGN WAS THE FACT THAT I BEGAN TO LOSE MY HAIR WHILE STILL IN MY TEENS! BUT, MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT WAS MY FANTASTIC ABILITY TO THINK!"

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME ANSWERS I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU YET, CHARLES! IT IS AS THOUGH YOU ARE ACTUALLY READING MY MIND!

OH, NO, SIR! THEY WERE JUST LUCKY GUESSES!

I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL! NO ONE MUST EVER SUSPECT THAT I CAN READ MINDS!

"AS I GREW OLDER, MY E.S.P.*POWER MADE ME EXCEL AT EVERYTHING! I BECAME A STAR QUARTERBACK BECAUSE I ALWAYS KNEW IN ADVANCE WHAT THE ENEMY TACKLES WERE THINKING!

IF ONLY I DARED TELL THEM I CAN READ THEIR MINDS! BUT...THEY'D HATE ME FOR IT!

*EXTRA-SENSORY-PERCEPTION, AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!...STAN.

"EVEN AT TRACK I HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF KNOWING WHEN AN OPPOSING RUNNER WAS TIRING, OR PLANNING TO MAKE HIS LAST DESPERATE SPURT!

THIS WILL BE MY LAST RACE! IT'S TOO EASY FOR A MUTANT TO DEFEAT A NORMAL MAN!

"BUT, ALL THE WHILE CAIN MARKO WAS WATCHING, AND HATING...HIS JEALOUS HEART FILLED WITH ALMOST UNCONTROLLABLE ENVY!"

ANOTHER TROPHY FOR YOU, SKIN-HEAD?

IF HE SUSPECTED I COULD READ HIS THOUGHTS! BUT... I'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM... YET!

GET THEM *OUTTA* HERE! I DON'T INTEND TO *LOOK* AT 'EM ALL DAY!!

HE'S EATEN UP WITH JEALOUSY AND ENVY! HE CAN'T *CONTROL* HIMSELF!

"FINALLY, I COULD STAND IDLY BY NO LONGER...!"

KEEP YOUR HANDS *OFF* MY TROPHIES! I'VE HAD ALL I'M GONNA *TAKE* FROM YOU!

SOK!

WHA..?!

YOU CREEPY PUNK...!!

I'VE BEEN HOPIN' FOR *YEARS* THAT YOU'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT! NOW YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE EXCUSE I *WANTED*!!

FIRST, I'LL SMASH YOUR TROPHIES TO *BITS*.. JUST TO SHOW I'M THROUGH FOOLIN' AROUND!

I CAN READ HIS EVERY THOUGHT! FIRST, HE'LL BREAK MY TROPHIES... THEN HE'LL BEAT *ME* UP!

WHAK!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT HIM... DON'T WANT TO *HURT* HIM... BUT I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!

THAT FINISHES *THAT*! AND NOW, LITTLE BROTHER... IT'S *YOUR* TURN!

THAK!

NO NORMAL FOE HAS A CHANCE AGAINST A MUTANT WHO CAN *READ MINDS*! YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF!

UHHH...!

HE GOT WHAT HE *DESERVED!* AND HE WAS CERTAINLY NO MATCH FOR YOUR *X-POWER!*

BUT THAT'S WHAT *TORMENTED* HIM! MY POWERS WERE A SHADOW BETWEEN US... A SHADOW WHICH WAS TO RESULT IN *TRAGEDY* FOR US *BOTH!*

I *STILL* DON'T SEE WHY HE'S SUCH A DANGER TO US *NOW!*

YOU *WILL*, BOBBY... IF I HAVE TIME TO FINISH MY TALE!

"THE FINAL TRAGEDY OCCURRED WHEN CAIN OFFERED TO DRIVE ME TO COLLEGE AFTER VACATION! HOPING TO WIN HIS FRIENDSHIP, I ACCEPTED! BUT, THEN..."

YOU'RE DRIVING LIKE A *MADMAN!* WE'LL NEVER STAY ON THE ROAD!!

OH, WE *WON'T*, EH?

YOU'RE BETTER THAN I IN *SPORTS*, IN *STUDIES*, IN ALMOST *EVERYTHING!* BUT NOW, *I'VE* GOT THE TOP HAND!!

I'M GONNA DRIVE LIKE THIS UNTIL YOU *BEG* ME TO STOP! ...TILL YOU CRY OUT IN FEAR!

IF I TRY TO *STOP* HIM... HE MIGHT LOSE CONTROL...!

"AND THEN, IT *HAPPENED*...!!

I DIDN'T *SEE* THE DETOUR!! JUMP!! *JUMP!!*

DETOUR

DANGE

"BUT, IT WAS *TOO LATE* FOR ME! ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NEVER KNOW IT, I HAD USED MY OWN MENTAL POWER TO HELP CAIN LEAP TO SAFETY... WHILE I REMAINED IN THE CAR A SPLIT SECOND TOO LONG..!"

CAN'T GET OUT!! GOING *OVER...!!*

WAS...WAS *THAT* HOW YOU LOST THE USE OF YOUR LEGS, PROFESSOR?

NO! THAT HAPPENED *ANOTHER* TIME...AT THE HANDS OF THE MAN YOU KNOW AS *LUCIFER!**

I MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE CRASH BY HARNESSING MY *BRAIN POWER* TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT..! BY CREATING A *MENTAL SHIELD* AROUND ME! THOUGH I WAS BADLY HURT...I *LIVED!*

BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SHOCK, THE PAIN, OF THAT TERRIBLE MOMENT!

*AS MENTIONED IN *X-MEN #9*... STAN.

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...

BAROOOM!!

LOOK OUT! THE WHOLE *BUILDING* IS SHAKING!!

QUICK! GRAB THE *PROFESSOR!* DON'T LET HIM *FALL!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *ME!* I'M ALL RIGHT! THE WINDOW...LOOK OUT OF THE *WINDOW!!*

IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE! INCREDIBLE!! INCONCEIVABLE!!* AND YET...!

HE *DID* IT!! HE BROKE THROUGH THE *FORCE BARRIER!*

I *SEE* SOMETHING MOVING!! IT'S *HIM!!*

BUT...LOOK AT THE *SIZE* OF HIM!! HE... DOESN'T LOOK ...*HUMAN!*

THEN, AS THE MONSTROUS FIGURE COMES CLOSER, THEY SEE...

HE'S HEADING FOR THE HOLLOW LOGS... WITH THE *GRENADES* IN THEM!

HE TRIPPED THE *RELEASE WIRE!* HE'LL BE STOPPED *NOW!*

BUT...IF *THAT* DOESN'T HOLD HIM... *WHAT WILL ??!*

THE GRENADES ARE SHOOTING OUT OF THE LOGS LIKE *MORTAR SHELLS!*

HE'S DRAWING *BACK!!*

BULL'S EYE! THEY'VE LOOSED THEIR *SLEEP GAS* ALL AROUND HIM!

BUT... WHY DOESN'T HE *FALL??!*

ALL IT DID WAS *ANGER* HIM!! HE'S SMASHING THEM ALL WITH *ONE BLOW!!*

NOW HE'S REACHED THE *SECOND* ROW! *THAT* GAS IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP A HERD OF *ELEPHANTS!*

WHOOOSH!

HE'S *STAGGERING!* HE'S *FALLING BACK!* WE *DID* IT!

IF ONLY WE COULD *SEE* MORE CLEARLY!

THE SMOKE AND HAZE ARE CONCEALING HIM!

I'LL KEEP THE *GAS* OUT OF THIS BUSTED WINDOW WITH A COATING OF *ICE!*

I *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND! CAIN MARKO WAS JUST AN ORDINARY, UNSAVORY CHARACTER! HOW DID HE BECOME SO *POWERFUL??*

THE THING THAT THREATENS US OUT *THERE* IS A FAR CRY FROM THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE CAIN MARKO!

HE'S *STILL* TRYING TO GET UP! WHAT IS HE *MADE* OF!?

NOW I'LL FINISH MY TALE...FOR, I FEAR, OUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

I *OWE* IT TO YOU TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU *FACE!* TO TELL YOU HOW CAIN MARKO GOT...HIS *POWER!*

THE ONE POWER ON EARTH THAT MAY FINALLY *DEFEAT* US!!

"THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW HIM WAS IN *ASIA*, DURING THE KOREAN WAR! WE HAD BEEN SERVING TOGETHER... UNTIL THE DAY THAT CAIN *DESERTED* UNDER FIRE!

THOSE SHELLS ARE COMIN' TOO CLOSE! I'LL DUCK INTO THIS CAVE AND SIT THE WAR OUT FOR AWHILE NOBODY'LL EVER FIND ME IN HERE!

CAIN! COME BACK, YOU FOOL! THAT'S A *COURT-MARTIAL OFFENSE! CAIN!*... DON'T *DO* IT!!

"RUSHING IN AFTER HIM, MY HEART SEEMED TO STAND STILL AS I REALIZED...

IT'S THE SACRED, LOST TEMPLE OF *CYTTORAK!* LEGENDS HAVE WARNED OF IT FOR *CENTURIES!*

NO!! DON'T *TOUCH* IT!! *DON'T!*

THAT *RUBY*... IT LOOKS *ALIVE!* THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION ON IT!!

"BUT, MY WARNING WAS TOO LATE...FOR CAIN...AND FOR THE *WORLD!*

"WHOSOEVER TOUCHES THIS GEM SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF THE CRIMSON BANDS OF *CYTTORAK!* HENCEFORTH, YOU WHO READ THESE WORDS, SHALL BECOME ...FOREVERMORE ...A HUMAN *JUGGERNAUT!!*"

DROP IT, CAIN! DROP IT! YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT THAT *MEANS!!*

"THOSE DESPERATE WORDS WERE NOT YET OUT OF MY MOUTH, WHEN...!"

SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING* TO ME! I-I'M *CHANGING..!*

NOTHING CAN STOP IT NOW! CAIN MARKO NO LONGER *EXISTS!* AND, IN HIS PLACE...

...AN EVIL, HUMAN *JUGGERNAUT* HAS COME INTO BEING!!

WHA...??! THAT EXPLOSION!! THE REDS ARE SHELLING THIS AREA! THE CAVE IS *COLLAPSING!!*

"I WAS NEARER TO THE OPENING THAN HE WHO HAD BEEN CAIN MARKO... SO I MANAGED TO ESCAPE BY A HAIRSBREADTH... WHILE THE CREATURE WITHIN THE CAVE WAS BURIED BENEATH A TRILLION TONS OF FALLING ROCK AND RUBBLE!"

EVEN IF THE CAVE-IN *DOESN'T* KILL HIM... IT WILL TAKE *YEARS* BEFORE HE CAN DIG OUT FROM BENEATH THE GIGANTIC *MOUNTAIN* WHICH COVERS HIM!

BUT, IF EVER HE *SHOULD* BREAK FREE, I CAN THINK OF NO POWER ON *EARTH* CAPABLE OF *STOPPING* HIM!

AND, HE'LL *FIND* ME! THE CRIMSON BANDS OF *CYTTORAK* WILL LEAD HIM TO ME NO MATTER WHERE I MAY HIDE!

BUT, WHAT *WAS* THE TEMPLE OF *CYTTORAK*? AND, WHAT IS THE POWER OF... THE *JUGGERNAUT..!?*

CYTTORAK IS THE MOST MYSTERIOUS OF ALL THE DEITIES OF *BLACK MAGIC!* WHEN HE WAS FINALLY DRIVEN FROM OUR OWN WORLD, HE LEFT BEHIND HIM THE CURSE OF THE *JUGGERNAUT!*

I CAN *SEE* HIM! HE'S *RISING* AGAIN!

JUST AS I *FEARED* HE WOULD!

AS FOR THE *POWER* OF THE JUGGERNAUT, I SIMPLY QUOTE THE DICTIONARY..."A GIGANTIC, INEXORABLE FORCE THAT MOVES ONWARD IRRESISTIBLY, *CRUSHING ANYTHING IT FINDS IN ITS PATH!"*

THEN *THAT'S* WHY HE GETS THROUGH ALL OUR OBSTACLES!! NOTHING CAN *STOP* A JUGGERNAUT!

BUT, HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S *HIM*? IT COULD BE *ANY-ONE!*

ONLY THE *JUGGERNAUT* COULD HAVE MADE CEREBRO SHRIEK THE WAY IT DID... AND ONLY THE *JUGGERNAUT* COULD PROVE INVULNERABLE TO ALL OUR DEFENSES!

BUT, OUR *NEXT* DEFENSE SHOULD STOP HIM! IT'S THE GAS WHICH CAUSES LOSS OF BALANCE!

AND, WITHOUT NORMAL BALANCE, A MAN MUST TOPPLE AND FALL!

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT *JUGGERNAUT* IS A LOT *MORE* THAN JUST A MAN!

CYCLOPS! THERE IS ANOTHER PRECAUTION WE'VE FORGOTTEN!

YES! I JUST THOUGHT OF IT NOW, TOO!

QUICK! RAISE THE STEEL INNER WALL!

LET ME DO IT! I'M FASTEST!

WILL DO... WITH ALACRITY, LEADER MAN!

SEZ WHO? MY ICE SLIDE'LL BEAT YOU EASY!

IF YOU STALWARTS INSIST UPON MAKING A RACE OF IT, DONT DISCOUNT THE BEAST!

ICEMAN! STAY OUT OF MY WAY! THIS IS NO JOKE, BOBBY!

WHO'S IN YOUR WAY? JUST FLY OVER MY HEAD, ANGEL!

OH, NO! THAT'LL CARRY ME PAST THE WALL SWITCH! LOOK OUT!

WHUMP!

ANGEL! BEAST! ICEMAN! EVERY SECOND COUNTS! GET THAT WALL RAISED!!!

YOU HEARD THE MAN! WE'RE ACTING LIKE A GAGGLE OF IRRESPONSIBLE JUVENILES!

THUP!

BOK!

THERE! NOW WE CAN RESUME OUR LITTLE DONNYBROOK!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT, YOU BIG APE!

CLK!

CAREFUL, YOU TWO! I'VE JUST HAD MY WINGS CURRIED!

SECONDS LATER...
THERE SHE GOES!
STEP ASIDE, BOBBY, WHILST YOURS TRULY TESTS IT!
TESTS IT? HOW?
LIKE THIS, YOU SNOW-COVERED STRIPLING!
WHEW! RATHER YOU THAN ME, HANK!
BWONK!
YOWFF! NOTHING WILL PENETRATE THAT!
BUT, PROFESSOR XAVIER IS NOT QUITE THAT SURE...!!
LET US GO TO THE FRONT DOOR! HE IS CERTAIN TO ATTACK AT THAT POINT!
HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT, SIR?
BECAUSE IT IS DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH THE PATH HE IS MAKING! AND, A JUGGERNAUT NEVER CHANGES ITS COURSE...FOR ANYTHING!
BRR! YOU SPEAK OF HIM AS IF HE'S A MACHINE, RATHER THAN A HUMAN BEING!
I'M AFRAID, MY DEAR MARVEL GIRL, THAT HE CEASED BEING HUMAN MANY YEARS AGO, ON THAT FATEFUL DAY IN THE TEMPLE OF CYTTORAK!
QUIET! I HEAR DULL, HEAVY FOOTFALLS THROUGH THE STEEL DOOR! HE'S ALMOST UPON US!
PROFESSOR, IF HE SHOULD SMASH THROUGH THIS LAST STEEL BARRIER... CAN YOU STOP HIM BY MENTALLY AFFECTING HIS BRAIN?
A GOOD QUESTION, HENRY... BUT I'VE A BAD ANSWER! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PROBE HIS MIND... SINCE FIRST HE APPEARED... BUT IT'S USELESS!
WHEN HE GAINED THE STAGGERING POWER OF CYTTORAK, HE ALSO GAINED A MYSTIC MENTAL DEFENSE, AGAINST WHICH I AM TOTALLY POWERLESS!
LOOK!! THE STEEL WALL... IT'S BULGING INWARD!!
IT'S BUCKLING... MORE AND MORE.. WITH STEADY, EVER-INCREASING PRESSURE!!
NOW DO YOU BEGIN TO CONCEIVE OF THE UNIMAGINABLE POWER THE JUGGERNAUT POSSESSES!?

BACK! GET BACK!! HE'S CRASHING THROUGH!!

SKRAK!

THAT WALL HAD *FIFTY TIMES* THE TENSILE STRENGTH OF *BATTLE-SHIP STEEL!*

BUT...HE'S SPLITTING IT, PEELING IT APART.. JUST LIKE A THIN LAYER OF *PLYWOOD!*

BOBBY! WE NEED A WALL OF *ICE...FAST...* TO PROTECT US FROM FLYING SHARDS OF STEEL!

BUT...THAT'S ONLY A *TEMPORARY* EXPEDIENT!

TRUE! IT WON'T STOP *JUGGER-NAUT!*

KLANNTCH!

HE BROKE *THROUGH!!*

NOW IT'S UP TO *US!*

THIS IS *IT!* WE'RE *DONE* WITH DEFENSES! IT'S *HIS* POWER AGAINST *OURS* NOW!

NO MATTER *HOW* UNSTOPPABLE HE IS... WE MUSTN'T LET HIM REACH THE *PROFESSOR!!* LET'S GO!

HOLD IT!! BACK, ALL OF YOU!!

LET ME GIVE HIM A BLAST WITH MY POWER BEAM, FIRST! IT'LL GIVE US SOME MEASURE OF HIS STRENGTH!

MORE! MORE! GIVE HIM FULL INTENSITY, CYCLOPS!

I AM! BUT IT ISN'T STOPPING HIM!

HE'S PUSHING MY RAY BACK AS THOUGH IT'S A SOLID THING! NO ONE OF US CAN DEFEAT HIM ALONE...!

WE'VE GOT TO RUSH HIM TOGETHER!! NOW...!!

IT'S NO USE! HE SWEPT US ASIDE LIKE PAPER DOLLS!

BUT...THE PROFESSOR! HE'S HEADING FOR THE PROFESSOR!

I'M LASHING OUT AT HIM WITH EVERY BIT OF MENTAL POWER I POSSESS... BUT.. STILL HE COMES!!

SO, DEAR BROTHER! WE MEET AGAIN! WHAT A PITY IT IS FOR THE LAST TIME!

THEN...IT'S TRUE! CAIN MARKO HAS BECOME A HUMAN... JUGGERNAUT!!

NEXT ISSUE... ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES OF ALL TIME... AS THE IRRESISTIBLE JUGGERNAUT BATTLES THE UN-CONQUERABLE X-MEN TO THE BITTER END!

YOU MUST NOT MISS IT!!

MINUTEMEN

Blunt

Brian Azzarello